



# NEWS RELEASE

January 26, 2011

## U.S. AND PHILIPPINES TO HOLD BILATERAL STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

The Governments of the Philippines and the United States will hold the first-ever Bilateral Strategic Dialogue on January 27-28 in Manila. The Dialogue will enhance the countries' strong relationship by facilitating discussion and cooperation among senior officials on bilateral, regional, and global issues. The Bilateral Strategic Dialogue gives both governments a great opportunity to affirm their longstanding alliance and friendship, discuss current challenges, identify new areas for cooperation, and continue their work as equal partners.

"Through this Dialogue, our two governments will affirm our commitment to our longstanding alliance and to continuing our work as equal partners, discuss current challenges, and identify new areas for cooperation," said U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr. "As fellow democracies with a long history of friendship, our countries will affirm our obligation to demonstrate leadership and make efforts for positive advances for the Philippines, the region, and the common good," he added.

"The Dialogue affirms the strength of the Philippine-U.S. alliance and the dynamic partnership for peace, prosperity, security and stability," Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo said.

The Dialogue will be led by Erlinda F. Basilio, Undersecretary for Policy (Department of Foreign Affairs); Kurt M. Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Pio Lorenzo F. Batino, Undersecretary for Legislative Affairs & Strategic Concerns (Department of National Defense); and Derek J. Mitchell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense.

###